The Confession and last words of Bessy Turnbul, who was Execute at Edinburgh, April 6th. 1709; for Murdering her own Child.

MURDER being one of the most hinous Sins prophibited in the second Table of the Law, is by the Law of GOD and all Nations, declar'd to be punishable by Death not only as the just detert of the Criminals but as a Terror to others also, and this particular Specie of Murther, a Womans destroying the Fruit of her own womb, is by the Laws of this Kingdom declar'd to be so odious, that pregnant presumptions are sustaind as a Clear evidence against the Criminals, namely. That any woman being known to be with Child and not revealing the same to any duting her pregnances and not calling for assistance at the time of her Delivery, the Child being dead or a missing she is Chargeable with the Murder of it, By this special Law several Criminals are found guilty that otherways no clear proof could be made aginst, yet notwithstanding thereof some Criminals may escape due punishment for want of evidence against them even in the terms of the Law as this Malefactor in particular would have done, had not God been pleased to discover the Murther by pricking of her Conscience, so that she volunterely Confessed the Fact while none accused her or look'd upon as Guilty.

This Women being with Child, and carried it so close, That she was never suspect during the whole time of her Pregnancy, (and Bigness,) Nor even at the time of her Delivery, she confessed, that after she brought furth her Child, by Violent Hands. She Murdered it, and threw it into a holl, and afterwards went to England; But stilli whereever she went, the innocent murdered Bab appeared before her, as she apprehended, which troubled her so much, that she came back again to the place where she committed the Murder, which was

went to the Minister of the place and told him the whole matter and carried him to the place where she had buried the Infant, whereupon she was secured and sent in to Edinburgh *to be tryed.*

This Account she gave of the matter since she came to Prison, but of late that she brought furth the Child without help of Women. tho Severals were at hand; and a medwife also hard by; And says the Child *was* Dead Born *She seem'd much more Affected then her Comrad, but not so much as could be wished, however she earnestly desir'd all Spectaters to take Warning by her; nd disir'd they might Pray for Her.*

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